## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are presently active in this application; Claims 5 and 12 amended and Claims 13-20 added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action Claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US 5,748,835); Claims 1, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Heo et al (US 5,987,417); and Claims 3-5, 7 and 10-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 5 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form, and new Claims 13-17 dependent on Claim 5 and new Claims 18-20 dependent on Claim 20 have been added herewith. The new Claims find support in the original application, including the original claims, and are not believed to raise a question of new matter. In view of the indication of allowable subject matter, Claims 5 and 12-20 are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

Applicants' invention as stated in Claim 1 is directed to a compressed audio data reproduction apparatus including a plurality of decoders configured to decode compressed audio data of respective exclusive compression forms; a compression form identifying portion configured to identify the compression form based on header information of the compressed audio data; and a selector configured to select the decoders corresponding to the compression form identified by said compression form identifying portion from said plurality of decoders. Thus, by means of the compression form identifying portion stated in Claim 1,

Applicants invention identifies the compression form by analyzing the header information of the compressed audio data. By so doing, it is possible to instantly identify the compression form of the flowing stream data, as a result of which stream sound is not cut off.

On the other hand, Lee discloses in Fig. 2 an audio decoder for selecting the compression form by using a second switch 215. Furthermore, Lee discloses in column 2, lines 62-65 that the header data is included in the bit stream. Lee switches on/off of the second switch 215 based on the audio mode control signal to select the compression form. Lee neither discloses nor suggests to identify the compression form by analyzing the header data in the bit stream.

On the contrary, as stated in Claim 1, the compression form is identified by analyzing the header information. Accordingly, Applicants' invention can dispense with elements such as Lee's second switch 215 and the audio mode control signal for controlling this switch, thereby considerably simplifying the entire configuration, as compared with that disclosed by Lee.

Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Lee neither discloses nor suggests a method *of* identifying the compression form without using the second switch 215. Accordingly, it is believed to be clear that the subject matter of Claim 1 is clearly not taught or rendered obvious over Lee.

On the other hand, Heo et al disclose in Fig. 14 the data form of Linear PCM. The data form of the coded data is disclosed in Fig: 15. These data has the pack header and the packet header in which the information relating to the compression form may be recorded.

Heo et al disclose in Fig. 17 the stream selector 212 for selecting the compression form, and notes at column 21, lines 20-26 that the stream selector 212 selects either of the decoder 213 or 214 depending on the requirement from the system controller

111. Furthermore, Heo et al discloses at column 24, lines 12-20 and steps S515 and S517 of Fig. 20 that the system controller 111 reads out the audio coding mode of VTSM_AST_ATR in Fig. 11 in order to select the audio decoder. The VTSMASTATR is provided in the information management table (VTSIMAT) in the DVD video disk, as shown in Table 2a.

In this way, Heo et al select the decoder based on the information recorded in the VTSI_MAT in the DVD video disk, but does not select the decoder based on the header information of the compressed audio data by itself.

Heo et al disclose in column 20, lines 36-42 that the system controller 111 analyzes the audio packets and the packet headers besides the VTSI_MAT in order to conduct the overall operation for reproducing the audio signal. However, Heo et al neither disclose nor suggest that the audio packs and the packet headers are used to select the decoder. As described above, Heo et al disclose only that the decoder is selected based on the information recorded in the information management table (VTSI_MAT) in the DVD video disk.

Thus, Heo et al clearly do not teach to select the decoder based on the stream data by itself, as a result of which Heo et al cannot instantly identify the compression form of the flowing stream data. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-4 and 6-11 define subject matter neither taught nor rendered obvious by Heo et al, whether considered alone or in combination with Lee.

Consequently, in view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection on the merits are traversed and that Claims 1-4 and 6-11 also include allowable subject matter. A formal notice of allowance of each of pending

Claims 1-20 is therefore believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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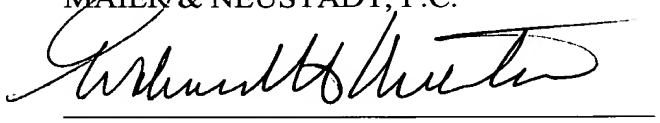

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